



COMING TOGETHER FOR UNION GROVE LAKE

HELP IMPROVE AND PROTECT OUR LAKE BY WORKING WITH THE UNION GROVE LAKE WATERSHED PROJECT.
Melody Bro, Project Coordinator: (641) 484-2702, ext. 120 ♦ melody.bro@ia.usda.gov ♦ Toledo NRCS office

In 2004, our local lake – Union Grove Lake – landed on the state's impaired waters list. But we can help improve and protect the water quality in the centerpiece of Union Grove State Park. By working together on the land, we can create a better place for swimming, fishing, boating and more.

TAKING A WATERSHED APPROACH

The Union Grove Lake Watershed Project works together with local landowners and residents – rural and urban – to make changes on the land that drains into Union Grove Lake (the watershed). Those changes slow erosion and filter water to prevent pollutants from washing into our water.

KNOWING THE PROBLEMS

Union Grove Lake first landed on the state's impaired waters list due to problems with turbid (cloudy) water and algae blooms affecting recreation. Excess sediment (soil) and nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen that wash in from the watershed lead to the problems. Undesirable fish species stir up sediment and pollutants already in the lake.

SOLUTIONS FOR A CLEANER LAKE

Cleaner water in Union Grove Lake starts by keeping excess soil, nutrients and bacteria from reaching the lake in the first place. The Union Grove Lake Watershed Project aims to:

- Reduce soil and phosphorus reaching the lake by 57 percent
- Reduce impact of livestock in streams in the watershed

To meet these goals, Melody Bro, project coordinator, will work with landowners to find what conservation practices will work best for their land and the lake. Conservation practices, which are ways to manage the land for better water quality, can be structures, like ponds and wetlands, or fences that keep livestock from eroding stream banks. They can be plantings, like buffers and grassed waterways, that help slow water and prevent erosion. Conservation practices can also be ways of improved land management, such as using conservation tillage, which disturbs the soil less and leaves residue on the surface.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways, large and small, that you can help your lake. You can volunteer to help with the project's water monitoring program, join lake cleanup day efforts or add new conservation practices to your property. You can make your home and yard more environmentally- and lake-friendly. For those looking to begin using new conservation practices on their land, financial assistance may be available from the watershed project. Just ask the project coordinator, Melody Bro, what you can do to help.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT

Get involved by stopping by the Toledo NRCS office, 102 Hwy 30 West (across from Dairy Queen), to visit with Project Coordinator Melody Bro. You can also call (641) 484-2702 (ext. 120) or e-mail Melody.Bro@ia.usda.gov.

You can also contact the coordinator to receive the project's quarterly newsletter or to sign up for workshops and other activities to learn more about helping the lake.

The Union Grove Watershed Project is a partnership between the Tama Soil and Water Conservation District, the Lake and Park Holding Corporation, landowners, residents, farm operators, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Division of Soil Conservation, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.



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